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CONFIDENTIAL.

(6544.)

Convention between the Government of France and the Republic of Liberia, signed at Paris, December 8, 1892.

THE Undersigned, M. Hanotaux, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Commercial Affairs and of Consulates at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, and M. Haussman, Chief of Division at the Under-Secretariate of State of the Colonies of the French Republic, and the Baron von Stein, Minister Resident of the Republic of Liberia in Belgium, Commissioner of the Liberian Republic to the Government of the French Republic, to the effect of preparing an understanding relatively to the delimitations of the French possessions and of the territories of the Republic of Liberia, have agreed to the following arrangement on both sides, liable to the ratification of the respective Governments.

ARTICLE I.

On the Ivory Coast and in the interior the frontier between the French possessions and the Republic of Liberia will be constituted as follows and to the tracing in conformity *in red* on the annexed map to the present engagement in double, and marked as follows :—

1. By the "thalweg" from the Cavalla River up to a point situated about 20 miles to the south of the confluence of the River Todedougou Ba, at the intersection of parallel 6° 30′ of latitude north and of the 9° 12′ longitude west.

2. By the parallel passing by the said point of intersection up to the conjunction of 10° of longitude west of Paris, it being understood that in every case the basin of the Great Sesters River belongs to Liberia, and the basin of the Todedougou Ba belongs to France.

3. By the meridian 10° up to its conjunction with the latitude 7° north. From this point the frontier will run in direct line with the point of intersection of 11° with the parallel which passes Tembierunda, it being understood that the town of Bamaquilla and the town of Mahomoudou will belong to the Republic of Liberia, the points of Naala and of Monsardou belonging in turn to France.

4. The frontier will then run on towards the west in following the same parallel until its conjunction with the 13° of longitude west of Paris with the Franco-English frontier of Sierra Leone. This tracing will in all case assure to France the entire basin of the Niger and of its affluents.

ARTICLE II.

The navigation on the River Cavalla until its confluence with the Todedougou Ba will be free to shipping and open for the inhabitants of both countries.

France will have the power of executing, at its own expense, on the water way ("thalweg"), or on one or the other bank of the Cavalla, the

works which may be necessary to render it navigable, it being, however, perfectly understood that this fact will in no way infringe the rights of sovereignty which on the right side belong to Liberia. In case the execution of such works would engender the establishment of taxes, these would be determined by a new understanding between the two Governments.

ARTICLE III.

France renounces all rights which she possesses from the ancient Treaties concluded on different points of the Grain Coast ("Côte des Graines"), and recognizes the sovereignty of the Republic of Liberia on the whole coast to the west of the Cavalla River.

The Republic of Liberia abandons on its side all the pretention which she might raise on the territories of the Ivory Coast situated to the east of the Cavalla River.

ARTICLE IV.

The Government of Liberia, as in the past, will facilitate in the measure of its means the free engagements of labourers on the Liberian Coast for the French Government or its subjects; reciprocally the same facilities are granted to Liberia by the French Government on the French part of the Ivory Coast.

ARTICLE V.

In recognizing to the Republic of Liberia the limits which have been determined, the Government of the French Republic declares that it only intends engaging itself towards the Republic of Liberia free and independent, and makes all its reserves for the case that this independence were to be impaired, or in the case that the Republic of Liberia should alienate any part of the territories which are recognized to it by the present Convention.

So done at Paris, the 8th December, 1892.

Special Clauses.

I.

The Government of Liberia having incurred certain expenses of establishment on the part of the coast which is to the east of the Cavalla, France engages itself to the Government of the Liberian Republic a sum of 25,000 fr. as an indemnity.

II.

In case Princes or Chiefs of aborigines whose States are placed in the territory belonging to France should take refuge in the territories recognized to the Republic of Liberia by the arrangement of the , all facilities consistent with the dignity of a free and independent State will be afforded to France for the pursuit and capture of the fugitives.

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